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ABSTRACT

Intellectual freedom is a concept fundamental to all libraries. It enables library customers to access a wide variety of materials in numerous formats, and is a concept dear to the hearts and minds of a democratic society. Libraries are often challenged by individuals and groups concerned about the availability of certain materials. The first part of this 25-minute videotape presents an overview of intellectual freedom in libraries and its historical and philosophical significance. The Library Bill of Rights is examined. Discussions with library administrators who have experienced challenges to their collections provide insight into the issue. The second part of the tape features vignettes to which staff members can react. After an intellectual freedom situation is depicted, viewers stop the tape and react to the scene. Possible solutions are presented, providing an opportunity to practice communication techniques before an encounter. Intellectual freedom scenarios include: (1) When shelving; (2) At the information desk; (3) At the check-out desk; (4) The Internet; and (5) On the floor. A print resource guide, "Coping with Challenges" provides strategies and tips for dealing with challenges to library materials, including: effective communication techniques; tips for public and school libraries; a camera-ready brochure on children and libraries; and lists of support groups and American Library Association resources. (SWC)

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